

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P R 130423Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7441

INFO CINCPAC

S E C R E T SEOUL 8290

EXDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD PASS HABIB AND SNEIDER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN OGLE CASE

REF: SEOUL 8210

1. REV. GEORGE OGLE UNDERWENT SECOND INTERROGATION BY IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES ON DECEMBER 12 FOR NEARLY SIX HOURS. UPON LEAVING IMMIGRATION OFFICE HE TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE BELIEVED THAT DEPORTATION CASE LIKELY TO BE DROPPED NOW.

2. DURING SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION, SEOUL IMMIGRATION OFFICE DIRECTOR CHO KY-HYUN TOLD EMBOFF HE DID NOT THINK THAT OGLE WOULD BE DEPORTED BUT THAT HIS CASE REMAINED OPEN FOR FURTHER DETERMINATION OF HIS VISA STATUS. CHO SAID OGLE HAD ASSURED HIM VERBALLY THAT HE WOULD NOT KNOWINGLY VIOLATE KOREAN LAW, THAT HE WANTED TO REMAIN AND SERVE IN KOREA, AND THAT HE HAD NO POLITICAL OBJECTIVES. ACCORDING TO CHO, OGLE ALSO SIGNED A WRITTEN PROTOCOL OF THE DISCUSSION.

3. DIRECTOR CHO FURTHER SAID THAT WHILE REV. OGLE'S ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF OF PRP PRISONER FAMILIES REMAIN UNDER INVESTIGATION, IMMIGRATION OFFICE AND JUSTICE MINISTRY WOULD NOW DETERMINE WHETHER HE IS TO BE CONSIDERED MISSIONARY OR TEACHER. (OGLE TEACHES LABOR LAW AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

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AT THE BUSINESS COLLEGE OF SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, A

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTION, AND AT SUNG KYUN KWAN UNIVERSITY).

4. ACTING FONMIN LHO CALLED CHARGE TO MOFA MORNING DEC 12 TO DESCRIBE NATURE OF QUESTIONS OGLE HAD BEEN ASKED DURING FIRST INTERROGATION. LHO SAID OGLE HAD IN GENERAL BEEN FORTH-COMING AND HAD EXPRESSED REGRET IF HIS ACTIVITIES AND STATEMENTS HAD CONTRAVENED KOREAN LAW, BUT MAINTAINED THAT HIS CRITICISMS OF YUSHIN CONSTITUTION AND POLITICAL SYSTEM WERE EXPRESSIONS OF PERSONAL VIEWS WHICH HE DID NOT REGARD AS POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

5. LHO SAID HE HAD REPORTED CHARGE'S DEMARCHE (REFTEL) TO HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON OGLE CASE DEC 10. HE SAID HE THOUGHT PRESENTATION HAD BEEN EFFECTIVE. ASKING THAT CHARGE HOLD WHAT FOLLOWED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE, LHO SAID JUSTICE MINISTRY HAD DECIDED TO DEPORT OGLE DEC 10, AND HAD TAKEN HIM INTO CUSTODY FOR THIS PURPOSE EVENING DEC 9, BUT HAD RELEASED HIM ON ORDERS FROM PRIME MINISTER. LHO SAID HE THOUGHT IT PROBABLE THAT ACTION AGAINST OGLE WOULD BE DEFERRED AT LEAST UNTIL AMBASSADOR SNEIDER RETURNS AND THAT IT POSSIBLE NO ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN UNLESS OGLE RESUMED POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT ACTIONS ON BEHALF OF OGLE BY FELLOW MISSIONARIES AND KOREAN CHRISTIANS AND ATTENDANT PUBLICITY MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR "THIS REGIME" TO BACK DOWN.

5. COMMENT: LHO IS APPARENTLY ANXIOUS TO ESTABLISH THAT HE AND MOFA HAVE DONE BEST THEY CAN TO PREVENT SERIOUS CRITICISM OF ROKG THAT WOULD ARISE IF OGLE PRECIPITOUSLY DEPORTED. AT THIS STAGE, SITUATION LOOKS BETTER FOR OGLE BUT HE NOT YET OUT OF WOODS. HIGHEST LEVELS ROKG DOUBTLESS REMAIN IRRITATED AT OGLE'S PAST ACTIONS AND WILL FEEL IN BETTER POSITION TO DEPORT HIM IF HE USES ADDITIONAL ROPE HE MAY BE GIVEN TO HAND HIMSELF.  
ERICSON

NOTE BY OCT: EXDIS ADDED PER SSO-ELTZ.

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NNN

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